

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following header and paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

**ABSTRACT**

A method for the treatment of a crystal, such as a lithium niobate crystal or lithium tantalate crystal, having nonlinear optical properties. The crystal comprises foreign atoms which bring about specific absorption of radiated light. The foreign atoms are transformed into a lower valent state by means of oxidation. Electrons, which are released during oxidation, are discharged from the crystal with the aid of an external power source.

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